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Listing of the Claims

1 (Original): A method for exchanging data between a source location and a destination location comprising the steps of:

generating a data file with a markup language in accordance with a predetermined schema;

generating a first software envelope containing the data file;

transmitting the software envelope to the destination location; and

creating an object from the data file with a plugin object corresponding to the predetermined schema.

2 (Previously Amended): The method of claim 1, further including the step of:

automatically generating a second software envelope from the information contained in the first software envelope.

3 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the first software envelope contains destination and source address information and

wherein the step of automatically generating a second envelope includes generating a second envelope having a destination address matching the source address of the first envelope.

4 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the first software envelope contains state information and

wherein the step of automatically generating a second envelope includes generating a second envelope having a destination address determined by the state information.

5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the markup language comprises extensible markup language (XML).

Claim
6 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the markup language comprises standard generalized markup language (SGML).

7 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the software envelope via electronic mail.

8 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the software envelope via HTTP.

9 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the software envelope via an intermediate server.

10 (Original): A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

11 (Cancelled).

12 (Previously Amended): A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising:

- (a) a data field containing address information;
- (b) a data field containing the identification of a predetermined schema;
- (c) a data field containing a data file formatted in a markup language in accordance with the schema; and
- (d) a data field containing manifest information corresponding to the information contained in the data file data field.

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13 (Previously Amended): The computer readable medium of claim 12, further including:

- (d) a data field containing state information.

14 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the state information contains address information.

15 (Previously Amended): The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the address information contains an address for replying to a message.

16 (Original): A method for creating data at a source location to transmit to a destination location comprising the steps of:

generating a data file with a markup language in accordance with a predetermined schema;

identifying a plugin object that creates an object from the data file;

generating a software envelope containing the data file; and

transmitting the software envelope to the destination location.

17 (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the step of generating a software envelope includes generating a software envelope containing the data file and the plugin object.

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18 (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the markup language comprises extensible markup language (XML).

19 (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the markup language comprises standard generalized markup language (SGML).

20 (Original): A method for extracting data from a file transmitted from a source location comprising the steps of:

receiving a software envelope containing a data file marked up with a markup language in accordance with a predetermined schema; and

creating an object from the data file with a plugin object corresponding to the predetermined schema.

21 (Original): The method of claim 20, wherein the markup language comprises extensible markup language (XML).

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22 (Original): The method of claim 20, wherein the markup language comprises standard generalized markup language (SGML).